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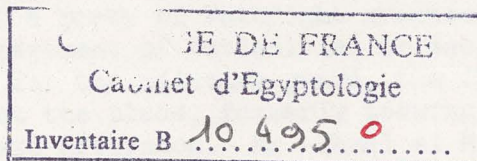
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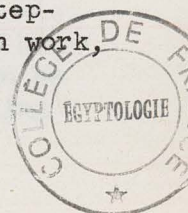
NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

THE CHEOPS BOAT GRAVE

On January 28, Mr. and Mrs. Dimmick, Dr. R. F. S. Starr of the State Department, and the Director visited the Cheops Boat Grave just when the last of the forty-one main ceiling blocks was raised, thus permitting for the first time a completely unobstructed view of the boat's stern. Two large curved panels from the prow in beautiful condition are directly underneath, and in the south-east corner stands a wooden beam, pierced near the top by a slot-shaped hole which still houses a piece of rope forming a clue as to the use of these holes which dot most of the woodwork. Further west, two short, wide, curved boards, lying a few inches apart, are connected by several strands of quarter-inch rope which pass through the oblong slots cut into these boards. Thus it appears that all wooden beams, girders, and planks which show these holes were once laced together with rope. Quantities of it are lying in a pile against the eastern end of the south wall of the chamber, partly covered with matting.

Outside the shed the ceiling blocks are laid out in a row parallel to the boat grave. They stand on edge just as they rested on the shelf of the chamber; odd pieces of stone and wood support them a few inches off the ground, barely high enough to get one's head underneath. The name of Radedef occurs seventeen times in the masons' and quarry marks of these blocks, but there is no trace of the name of Chephren. On the other hand, the name of the Cheops Pyramid can be found frequently, as well as measurements and indications of the direction in which particular blocks were meant to point. The entire row of blocks is covered by large panels of heavy sailcloth. That copper chisels must have been used in dressing the surface of the blocks can be seen from the bright green oxidization which dots the stones in a few places.

In the middle of February the site was officially closed, the workmen engaged in lifting the heavy ceiling slabs were discharged, and the Arabic-and-English sign requesting visitors to apply for special passes in order to see the boat, was taken down. There was an announcement in the press that a new Committee had been appointed by the Minister of Education, consisting of Professor Mustafa Amer, Director of the Department of Antiquities, as chairman, and Mr. Fattah Hilmi and Professor Abdel Moneim Abubakr as members. Mr. Fattah Hilmi is Assistant Director of the Department of Antiquities. Mr. Ahmed Youssef, well known for the skill with which he restored the furniture of Queen Hetepheres I, the mother of Cheops, has been named in charge of the restoration work,



but at the time of this writing the definite date for the beginning of this work has not yet been set.

On March 10 a party of Fulbright grantees, including Mr. Bothmer, was invited by the Department of Antiquities to see the boat grave. The site was quiet, and except for the military guard, the fire wardens, and a few ghafirs from the Department the place, formerly teeming with activity, seemed almost desolate in the late afternoon. Mr. Kamal el Mallakh and Mr. Zaki Nour were on hand, and it was possible to inspect a few yards of the center section as well as the prow part at leisure. The main portion of the boat grave was covered with the large panels stretching from one shelf to the other, which now replace the ceiling blocks originally closing the pit. These blocks had been moved in the past few weeks to a position east of the shed surmounting the boat chamber. Mr. el Mallakh explained that it was planned to double the size of the shed so that part of the ground between the boat chamber and the south face of the pyramid would be roofed over in order to provide working space adjoining the pit once the restoration work began. Also, the scheme of a museum for the boat in situ had been conceived in which a glass roof would cover the vessel while visitors were to be admitted to a gallery above from which to see the exhibit.

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CAIRO EXCURSIONS

The archaeological tours for members of the American colony in Cairo, which had been arranged under the auspices of the American Research Center early in January, continued with a trip to Saqqara on Sunday, January 23. One hundred and forty-eight people came and visited the tomb of Mehu, the Unas Pyramid complex, and the new excavations of Mr. Zakaria Goneim at the unfinished pyramid of Dynasty III to the southwest of Zoser. It was then decided to reduce the amount of advance publicity, and on the following Sunday, January 30, only 89 Americans came to Giza for a tour of the Chephren Valley and Pyramid Temples, the Sphinx and Sphinx Temple, and the Third Pyramid of Mycerinus. During the last two Sundays in January mimeographed pamphlets had been distributed among the participants which explain the structure and aims of the Center and invite to membership. The excursions were then suspended for three weeks and resumed again on February 27 with a trip to Abu Roash, the unfinished pyramid of Radedef of Dynasty IV, with an attendance of 42. The following Sunday the group visited Memphis where Mr. John Dimick, Director of the University of Pennsylvania excavations, showed the dig in progress and explained the layout of the Apis Bull Embalmery. The 24 participants then went to the West Hall of the Ptah Temple and to the Colossus of Ramesses II. The group included several members of the Center who happened to visit Cairo at that time, among them Mr. and Mrs. H. Shailer Dow (East Haddam, Conn.), Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Jones, Jr. (Hartford, Conn.), and Mr. and Mrs. Lucius E. Thayer (West Newton, Mass.). There would have been more on that day if one of the bridges, leading over the canal to Mitrahine, had not been made impassable due to the dismantling operations of Egyptian Army engineers. The second colossus of Ramesses II had been brought to Cairo a few days before for display in front of the railroad station, the bridges had to be strengthened for the transport temporarily and one after another was being stripped of its auxiliary supports which prevented several potential participants from reaching Mitrahine in time for the tour. Mr. Bothmer himself was delayed because first the Center's jeep broke down and he had to borrow a car from the head of the U.S. Information Service, and then he found that he could not get across the last bridge because of the dismantling operations. But somehow everybody seemed to take it in good spirits.

On March 13 the Center members and some friends and other visitors went to Abusir for a tour of the Pyramids of Sahura, Nefer-ir-ka-ra, and Neusera of Dynasty V. By special arrangement with the manager of the farm at the foot of the hill, Mr. Abdel Samia Zayed, the cars could be left there which entailed only a ten-minute walk up the hill while the luncheon baskets for the following picnic were driven up to the top of the Sahura causeway in the Center's jeep. Since there is enough left of the temples to make clear the basic layout of the sanctuaries, all participants seemed to be most interested, including the children who climbed on every wall and searched, partly successfully, for mummy beads. Attendance was about 50 on that day.

As will be reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, Professor Ahmed Fakhry is again excavating at Dahshur near the South Pyramid of Snofru of Dynasty IV. On Sunday, March 20, the Center was invited to visit his dig, and a convoy of fifteen cars, occupied by 46 people (not counting numerous children) took to the desert and ascended the plateau of the pyramid at noontime. Only two cars got stuck before reaching the Valley Temple, and two more had some trouble before getting to the top of the causeway, but there were enough men to lend a hand and free the vehicles. Professor Fakhry and his assistants, among them Dr. William K. Simpson, Research Associate of the Center, warmly welcomed the group and, after the picnic, showed the new excavations on a tour of the foundations of the rooms where the causeway meets the pyramid enclosure wall. Later the sanctuaries in front of the north and east sides of the pyramid were visited, as well as the store-rooms to the southeast, the ritual pyramid on the south side, and the Valley Temple with its newly found structures to the east. Here also the excavation in progress aroused much interest, with the rows of men digging the dirt, the basket boys carrying it to the dump cars, other men pushing the cars on rails to the end of the dump, and everybody singing, singing under a leader whose clear voice could be heard from far away across the sandy waste.

As a result of these excursions the Center has now gained 18 members locally, an increase of 8 per cent in overall membership. It is to be remembered, however, that only a large gift or adequate endowment will enable the Center to establish the permanent archaeological institution in Cairo which was envisaged by its founders.

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DELTA SITES - II

Lower Egypt, approximately the shape of an inverted triangle with Cairo at the apex in the south, is divided by the Rosetta and Damietta branches of the Nile into three parts. Each part is supervised by an inspector of the Antiquities Department while the Delta as a whole is administered by the Department's Chief Inspector, Mr. Shafiq Farid, whose office is at Tanta. The Inspector of the Eastern Delta is Mr. Abdel Hafiz Abdel Ali, at Zagazig, the Inspector of the Central Delta Mr. Hassan el Masri at Tanta, and the Inspector of the Western Delta Mr. Ahmed ed Tahir at Alexandria. There are Departmental museums at Port Said, Ismailiya, and Tanta, and magazines of the Antiquities Department for the Eastern Delta are located at Athribis, Zagazig, and Timai el Amdid (Mendes). These magazines often contain antiquities of great interest, and on a recent visit to Zagazig it was the privilege of this

writer to study the collections in the store room of the Inspectorate there. This visit was greatly facilitated by the presence of Mr. Shehata Adam, formerly Inspector of the Eastern Delta and now Inspector of Karnak and Luxor, who knows the sites intimately from his four-year stretch of duty in the region and whose Delta excavations will soon be published in the Annales du Service.

The trip from Cairo to Zagazig by car takes about two hours. For most of the way one follows the macadamized main highway to Ismailiya. The turnoff to Zagazig comes at Bilbeis, and after crossing the town one has a straight highway to Zagazig which offers modest clean accommodations at the Hotel Muthallath for 40 piasters a night. The office of the Antiquities Department lies opposite the National Bank of Egypt, but on the other side of the canal, and that is where the store room is located. As everywhere in Egypt one is surprised by the number of Greek inscriptions in marble and limestone, probably never recorded for the S.E.G., which are too numerous, and from an archaeological viewpoint too insignificant, to be sent to the Cairo Museum or to the Greco-Roman Museum of Alexandria. Even in the dark corners of the main temples of Upper Egypt, there are lying about slabs and statue bases with Greek inscriptions which are well worth recording.

After working in the magazine on statues and inscriptions ranging from the Middle Kingdom to the Late Period and photographing the main pieces, we set out the next day in a northeasterly direction for Abu Kebir. Five kilometers before the town there is a level crossing on the left, and after 200 yards on a dirt road the village of Abu Yasin appears. Like many Delta sites it lies on a Gezira, a sand island amidst the cultivation, now almost level with the surrounding fields since these islands are gradually lowered by nature, and by human action in order to gain more cultivable acreage. In the heart of the village is a sandy depression in which stand seven colossal granite sarcophagi with lids, each of them about 13 feet long and 8 feet high. There are many large granite and limestone blocks lying around, several limestone anthropoid coffins, and the usual debris which attests that the site was once an important sanctuary. When the place was excavated by Mr. Abdessalam Abdessalam in the middle 'thirties, one of the sarcophagi was found to contain the mummy of a bull still intact, indicating that here was the final resting place of sacred bulls formerly worshipped in this region. One of the sarcophagi was brought to Cairo and is now to be found in the garden behind the Cairo Museum adjoining the gate of the Antiquities Department. Two uninscribed shawabtis were found at Abu Yasin in 1954, but since the earlier excavations have not been published very little information on the finds is available. Places such as Abu Yasin abound in Lower Egypt, and according to Mr. Shehata Adam there are in the Eastern Delta alone 255 known antiquity sites which are guarded by a ghafir of the Department.

After Abu Kebir we turned to the west following the road to Faqus, and at Faqus took the road to El Huseiniya along the canal which runs more or less in a northerly direction. After about nine kilometers another large crescent-shaped Gezira appears on the right, and crossing the canal to the east and driving through the fields we reached the Gezira which is known locally as Tell Dab'a. There are some fellaheen huts named Ezbet Husni Bey Rushdi in the heart of the Gezira, and a few yards southeast of the "village" lies the site which Mr. Shehta Adam excavated in recent years. As it will soon be

published in the Annales du Service this writer will refrain from a description for the time being. It was discovered accidentally two years ago when a fellah deepened his field in order to benefit more by better irrigation. He found the fragment of a large statue, and the Antiquities Department decided to have the place excavated. Mr. Labib Habachi had a small dig at the south-west corner of the Gezira, and he also excavated across the road at Khata'na where Naville, more than half a century ago, made soundings. A few hundred yards to the east of Tell Dab'a lies Qantir, but the site of Mr. Hamza's excavations is again under cultivation and nothing can be seen except a few granite blocks in the village. Its center is formed by the Muslim cemetery, probably overlying ancient buildings, and walking around an adjoining field bordered by a deep cut we saw to our amazement that the field itself is resting on the Gezira, probably like the whole of Qantir. The black top soil is only about 20 inches deep, and underneath lies pure fine yellow sand. This sand is still put to use in decreasing the fertility and consistency of the soil prepared for certain crops as we noticed on that day all along the road where neat piles of yellow sand dotted acres of bare black land now ready for spring sowing.

Across canal and road from Qantir to the northeast is another outcrop of the Gezira amidst the green cultivation. In a depression of the ground rests a huge fragment of a colossal seated statue of Ramesses II of white limestone consisting of the front of the base and the toes of both feet. Re-use of white limestone in some houses and on steps leading down into the canal hints at the fate which befel the statuary and sanctuaries of Qantir. The return trip to Cairo from Qantir takes about three and one half hours. It was a windy, almost stormy day, and as far as the eye could see clouds of dust were driven over the landscape, somewhat incongruous in this sea of green fields and black soil. But a Gezira, a dirt road, a village will develop enough dust for a high wind with which to blanket the countryside.

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EXCAVATIONS AT NORTH SAQQARA

On March 2 Professor W. Bryan Emery left Egypt by air for New York. He had been awarded the Norton Lectureship of the Archaeological Institute of America, and by the time this Newsletter appears in print he will have spoken before more than 20 of the Institute's Societies between New York, N.Y., and Walla Walla, Wash. His excavations of the 1954-55 season at the archaic cemetery of Saqqara began on December 5 and ended on February 19. He had an average of 75 men at work during that time, and his staff included Dr. A. Klasens, of the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden, Mr. Uphill of Cambridge University, and Dr. Henry Fischer of the University of Pennsylvania. This year's dig, directly to the north of what is known in Saqqara as Mr. Emery's House, uncovered a large tomb (no. 3506) which is dated by inscriptions to the time of King Wedyu of Dynasty I, ca. 3100 B.C. These inscriptions consist of nearly 200 jar sealings, representing about 50 different seal impressions with names of a number of officials of the period.

Pending Mr. Emery's first announcement of the results of his excavation, which has yet to appear, this report must necessarily be brief. But it can be stated that the construction of this tomb, the superstructure of which has disappeared, is quite unique inasmuch as it shows a change in plan whereby a different tomb was built within the original tomb whose floor level lies about

30 feet below the desert surface. The upper portion was constructed of mud brick while the lower part is cut into the limestone of the bedrock. Above ground the tomb's outer wall shows the typical palace façade paneling in mud brick, and an enclosure wall, also of mud brick, surrounded the structure. The longer axis of the tomb, running north-south and paralleling the edge of the adjoining cliff, measures about 70 feet. A mud brick staircase covered with white plaster leads into the tomb on the east side, which is entered by a doorway formed by two carefully cut limestone slabs surmounted by a limestone lintel. There are traces of a wood facing which covered the walls east and west of the doorway, and there are grooves in the mud brick masonry east of the doorway for a portcullis which barred the entrance in ancient times.

On the floor of the main tomb bones from the disturbed burial of the owner were discovered. The ground showed traces of the wooden floor, and round holes could be seen in which once the palm logs supporting the ceiling were imbedded. A row of shallow subsidiary burials lies on the outside of the north and east walls, and to the north, but still within the main enclosure wall, Professor Emery discovered a boat grave with remains of a wooden vessel which proves that the burial of a real boat long antedates the time of Cheops. Among the finds a large number of foreign, so-called Syrian, pottery should be noted.

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A TRIP TO UPPER EGYPT

Every year the Fulbright grantees make an excursion to Luxor and Assuan for a few days, and having to do some work of my own in Upper Egypt at about that time I left Cairo three days earlier by jeep in order to reach Thebes via the Red Sea route. We were four in the car, carried spare tins of gasoline, water, food, sleeping bags, and set out for Suez early on February 1. The highway to the Canal is in excellent condition, and we were in Suez three hours later. There we saw the large British camps and, passing them, turned south on what proved to be a very beautiful though lonely road. The macadam ends after about 60 kilometers, but until Ras Gharib, the oilfields of the Shell Co., the road is on the whole quite good. Right after Suez we were stopped at the first of many Frontier Police command posts which line the Red Sea coast where the special passes issued for that region are being checked. There is telephone connection all along the line, and the soldiers send papers as well as parcels further down the road to other stations by entrusting them to the few cars which make the trip every day. Just before Ras Gharib, which lies 365 km. from Cairo, the effects of the heavy rains of last December are indicated by the large number of stones which must have been swept down from the mountains at that time. They line the road on both sides and show an amazing variety of color. Every type of material, from green schist to red so-called Assuan granite, seems to occur in the mountain ranges which run parallel to the Red Sea. Sinai is well visible across the Bay for hours on end; there are boats on their way to and from the Canal in the distance, but except for the isolated police stations no human habitation is in evidence. We passed Ras Gharib, which is a company-owned "town," without stopping and replenished our gasoline supply from the cans brought along from Cairo. Actually these sealed four-gallon (Imperial gallons, four of which equal five American gallons) tins are not practicable on such a trip since they are too thin and easily spring a leak on the bumpy roads. It was already dark when

we came to Hurgada, best known for its Marine Biological Laboratory, and so we drove on to our final destination for the day, Dishet el Dhaba, over a very bad road. The track was easy to follow once we had found the turn-off from the Safaga road; its condition, however, is best described as that of a wash-board: thousands of parallel ripples cross the path and when one drives over them they shake every bolt of the vehicle. At 10 p.m., 590 km. out of Cairo, we arrived at Dishet el Dhaba, a private camp on the sandy beach of a small bay which provides an unlimited supply of strange large shells for souvenir hunters.

The next morning we regained the Safaga road, and just when we arrived in Port Safaga, the seat of an Anglo-Egyptian phosphate company, the glass cup of the auxiliary gas filter broke, which meant a delay of several hours while the helpful engineer of the company had a brass filter turned in the shop with which to replace the broken glass. We then set out for Qoseir, whence we had planned to drive through the Wady Hammamat to the Nile Valley near Quft, but after 25 km. of a very bad road the motor developed some trouble, and in view of the fact that this particular stretch of the Red Sea Coast is traveled only once a week by a truck we decided to return to Safaga and to accept the hospitality of a nice Egyptian chemist whom we had met earlier in the day while waiting for the repair. Darkness fell just after we re-entered the port of the phosphate company which owns the place and exports the fertilizer mined at some distance in the desert mountains. The officials told us that later in the year a resthouse would be built there which should facilitate visits to the Mons Claudianus and the Mons Porphyrites as well as to other parts of the nearly uninhabited mountains.

The next morning we left Port Safaga, after the jeep's engine had been repaired, and followed the excellent highway built by the British Army during the war in case Suez should be lost and Port Safaga should be used as a supply port. This black-top road, which is well maintained, leads across the desert mountains to Qena on the Nile. We met a few cars, some bedouins with their camels, and a highway repair crew, but otherwise there were just the ragged hills around us, sandy valleys, and a merciless sun. The stretch from Port Safaga to Qena is about 170 kilometers long; only one point is a bit steep so that one has to shift into second gear.

At Qena we saw some traces of the torrents which wiped out many houses last December, but on the whole the town seems to have recovered from the disaster. Since Qena is situated at the mouth of the valley followed by the highway from the Red Sea, one wonders why it has not suffered more in the past from similar accidents, but the rainfall may have been stronger than in any year during the last century. From Qena we followed the Nile on the well known road to Luxor, 65 km. to the south. The fertile Nile Valley is certainly a contrast to the desert, a pleasant one admittedly, but the dust is very disagreeable as compared with the desert where it needs a high wind to stir up the sand.

We have three days of sightseeing with the Fulbright grantees, and then settled down to work, leaving Luxor again by jeep on February 17 for the two-day trip to Cairo by the direct road. We stopped on the first day at Abydos to see the new excavations on which Mr. Hayes had reported in Newsletter XIII, page 10. They had just been resumed under the personal direction of Mr. Edward Ghazuli, Chief Inspector of Middle Egypt, and by the day of our visit he had

cleared several rooms to the south of the columned hall. These rooms were filled with burned animal bones; but it will take some time before a detailed study will reveal whether they date from a later period. The mound as such seems to have remained untouched at least since the time when Mariette excavated the temple proper one hundred years ago. It remains to be seen what else it will reveal. Part of the temple, that of Sety I, was blocked by scaffolding used for roof repair, but the temple of Ramesses II to the north, to many the more interesting of the two, is in as good a condition as ever in its present fragmentary state. The Osireion was, as usual, filled with water about three feet above floor level, and the sloping passage seems to lose more and more of the painted inscriptions with which the brick walls are covered, due to the wind-blown action of the sand.

We crossed the river on the new bridge at Sohag to the east side where the road is much better. Thirty-eight kilometers before the Assiout Barrage the macadamized highway begins and next year it will be continued further south. There is, in addition to the Hotel Windsor, a second passable hotel in Assiut, named the Semiramis, at 45 piasters a night. More detours before Beni Souef delayed us the next day so that we did not reach Cairo until 4 p.m., after driving 8 hours from Assiut; but a jeep is a comparatively slow vehicle on a highway in fair to good condition.

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PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS

Mr. John Dimick, Field Director, The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania Expedition, reports on the Museum's current excavations as follows: "Excavations at Memphis were begun, as scheduled, on February 15, 1955. Location of the principal activity is now well established as being the southwest corner of the wall which guarded the ancient Temple of Ptah. The temple area, although huge in itself, covered only a minor segment of the great city whose lines and boundaries are now entirely obliterated. Sections of the wall now exposed by our workmen disclose it to have been approximately eleven meters in diameter near the base. Its height is not yet established and may never be determined. Known structures within the temple area at present are the Apis Embalming House and the West Hall. We have cleaned and dug sections of the Embalming House in order to make a plan, but the West Hall is under water almost constantly and we shall have to depend for it on the very good map published by Flinders Petrie. His plan shows an enormous building with limestone columns arranged in a familiar pattern, the larger columns being blocked within a field of smaller ones. No work is planned there.

"Most strenuous digging at this time is near the southwest corner of the wall and on its outside. A fairly well preserved XIXth Dynasty temple is there, but is also standing in water which prevents examination of its floor level. Two meters above that level we are now examining a Late building complex which at this time we are unable to date. The area was covered with much debris from earlier excavations causing considerable delay. How much of the sector can be examined during the short season of ten weeks is uncertain for the moment. A force of 62 men is employed, and it may be increased if possibilities warrant it. Part of this season's work includes locating the known structures and monuments within the limits of Memphis in order to produce a workable map.

"No program has been discussed for continuation of work here after this season, but it is hoped that an expedition will be kept in Egypt representing the Museum. The staff at Memphis includes Dr. Rudolf Anthes, Dr. Henry Fischer, Mr. Jean Jacquet, and myself."

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DAHSHUR EXCAVATIONS - INTERIM REPORT

This report has been prepared by Dr. William K. Simpson, Fulbright Grantee and Research Associate of the Center.

"It has been my privilege this year to serve as a member of Dr. Ahmed Fakhry's staff at his excavations at Dahshur. Dr. Fakhry is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Cairo and has been conducting the excavations on behalf of the Antiquities Department. The opportunity of working with him has been made possible through his invitation and through the good offices of the Director General of the Antiquities Department, Professor Mustafa Amer. Although our work is in the vicinity of the Bent Pyramid, the expedition house is situated considerably to the north, at South Saqqara, and every day begins and ends with a brisk hour's ride through the desert. The house is east of the Mastabat el Fara'on and the pyramid of Pepy II. On the way to the Bent Pyramid we pass those of Khendjer, Sen-Wosret III, Amunemhet II, and Amunemhet III, as well as Snefru's North Pyramid.

"For the benefit of the members of the Center, Dr. Fakhry has kindly allowed me to mention the projects now in hand at the excavation. The work is concentrated at the site of the Bent Pyramid of King Snefru, the founder of Dynasty IV. Directly in front of its north entrance a sizable amount of debris dating from the Old Kingdom to the excavations of the late Abdes Salam Hussein has been removed. Details of the blocks supporting the lowest course of casing were revealed, showing that these blocks also have a sloping upper surface. An offering place of brick lay in front of the entrance, but it seems to be later than the reign of Snefru. Large quantities of traditional offering vessels of Old Kingdom type were found above and beneath this structure. In the debris lying above the offering place were a number of fragments of stone vessels of Fourth Dynasty types and fragments of wood, these objects having been thrown out from the pyramid at the time it was plundered. Also within the enclosure wall, but on the east side, the excavation of an Old Kingdom dwelling has been completed. Most of this structure was excavated earlier and was published by the excavator in his second preliminary report, where the rooms are described as magazines. The unity of the building now seems to him to indicate a private house belonging to a functionary connected with the pyramid. Its extraordinary preservation and the details of the silos and grain sorting compartments on the floor make the building one of the highlights of the enclosure. To the south of the pyramid, northeast of the small ritual pyramid, a long and deep trench was made in order to enable us to determine whether any structures existed in this area. Aside from a wall paralleling the enclosure wall on the inside, the trench revealed no traces of construction. Inside the pyramid a number of miscellaneous minor tasks are being completed.

"The valley temple of the pyramid is at present the major project. The structure was excavated almost completely in former seasons, but there remain several areas adjoining the temple to be cleared. The relief and statuary previously found there have made the building and its excavator well known.

The task confronting us is the clearance of the eastern and southern sides of the temple, outside the great brick enclosure wall. Jar sealings found on the east side show that the temple received offerings in the reign of a ruler of Dynasty V, whose pyramid is at Abusir. To the north of the temple and adjacent to it is a closely related structure which has been cleared again for recording. It is characterized by chambers with stone column bases and holes which may have been used to hold wooden posts for a temporary canopy. South of the temple the entrance to the later houses, through the great brick wall, has been found.

"In addition to the work within the pyramid and its enclosure and the valley temple, a large mastaba, well to the east of the pyramid, was cleared.

"As the above is being written, the season is just slightly over half completed. It has been a great honor for me to serve the Antiquities Department and Dr. Fakhry in this work and I have probably benefited more from the experience than I have been able to contribute. If the excavations in the coming weeks produce anything of special interest to the members of the Center, we will ask Dr. Fakhry if it may be reported in the next Newsletter."

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT DATED MARCH 24

The last two months brought an unusually large number of visitors to Cairo, and hotels have been filled to the last bathroom practically every night. Among these visitors were several members of the Center who, armed with copies of the Newsletter, found the Center's office or called us by phone. Often they came on short notice, and it was not always possible to make special arrangements for them or plan an excursion together although some of them managed to come with us on one of the Sunday tours. The great problem is always to find transportation, because the Center's jeep will not hold more than seven people, and not too comfortably at that. Despite the warning published in Newsletter XIII, page 8, most of the scholarly requests from members at home seem to have been saved for the height of the season and are coming in now. We have tried to fill most of them, at least think we have replied to all urgent letters, but it must be remembered that both Mr. Simpson and I are here on Fulbright research grants and that most of our time is devoted to this work. There were a few photographic assignments of a special nature which were completed with the cooperation of our Egyptian colleagues and the usual inquiries by phone and mail.

Ahmad Badawi's study of Memphis (Memphis als zweite Landeshauptstadt im Neuen Reich. Cairo, 1948. 155 pp., 13 pl.) is now generally available at PT 35. I got my copy through Sirović (P.O.B. 615, Cairo) who seems to have found the government office where the stock is kept.

On March 5 the Center gave a tea party for Miss Gisela M. A. Richter, former Curator of Greek and Roman Art in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and her sister Miss Irma Richter, which was attended by nearly forty people. It was their first visit to Egypt, and after spending a few days in Alexandria they came to Cairo and later went to Luxor before leaving for Cyprus and Athens. On March 22 we had a party for Mr. Frederick Foster and Miss Sara Foster, both of Boston, who also are in Egypt for the first time. Mr. Foster is a Trustee of the Center and a member of the Visiting Committees of the Department of Egyptian Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and of Egyptian and Semitic Civilizations, Harvard University. There was a reception at the Semiramis Hotel on February 22, given by Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick, in honor of Mr. and

Mrs. Percy C. Madeira, Jr., of Philadelphia. Mr. Madeira is the President of the Board of Trustees of The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, which is currently excavating at Memphis. And yesterday the Counselor of the American Embassy and Mrs. Lewis Jones gave a reception at their house in Zamalek in honor of the new Ambassador and Mrs. Henry A. Byroade to whom we were introduced on that occasion.

About a month ago I met at Professor Fakhry's house Dr. and Mrs. Henry who passed through Cairo on their way to Pakistan where the investigations of Palaeolithic sites by the Peabody Museum -Harvard University Expedition were to begin shortly. At present we are having Mr. Karl Kup, a member of the Center and Curator of the Spencer Collection of the New York Public Library, here in Cairo who has come on a research mission by way of the Far East and India. He gave a lecture on March 21 at the United States Library which was very well received. I could not attend it because I gave a lecture at the same time at the School of Oriental Studies of the American University. I have also lectured at the American School in Meadi, the Museum of Modern Art, Cairo, and at Assiut College.

In closing I should like to mention that the plaster sphinxes which marred the view of Deir el Bahari last December have been removed, but their debris was strewn about the site last month. At least one of the statues of the Mentuhotep Temple was broken clear across the waist in recent times, and it is hoped that no more ancient temples will be used to make a movie. The huge pylons of the "Temple of Ramesses II at Tanis" which were built for the filming of "The Ten Commandments" at Zawiet el Aryan are coming down, and soon the view from Giza to Saqqara will once more be unobstructed.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ANCIENT GLASS

The Chairman of the International Committee on Ancient Glass, Mr. Ray W. Smith, a member of the Center and Chairman of the Committee on Ancient Glass of the Archaeological Institute of America, was in Cairo from February 20 to February 25. As a result of conferences he had during his visit with several prominent archaeologists and research scholars it was announced that Professor Mustafa Amer, Director of the Department of Antiquities of the Egyptian Government, has become a member of the International Committee and that the Department itself has joined other national bodies as sponsors of the International Committee. A regional Egyptian committee will be formed soon, under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, Director of the Museum of Islamic Art, which will include representatives of other museums in Egypt so as to cover all periods of ancient glass making. Dr. Aboud el Azm, of the National Research Council of Egypt, will be one of the members of the regional committee and has already instituted a program of research to identify the raw materials used by the ancient Egyptian glass industry in the Dynastic, Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic periods.

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LES GRANDES DECOUVERTES ARCHEOLOGIQUES DE 1954

Under this title La Revue du Caire has just published a special issue (vol. XXXIII, No. 175) of 150 pages with 41 illustrations which gives a summary of all finds and excavations in Egypt during 1954. It contains twenty articles

by excavators on their recent work as well as commentary by scholars from many countries on these discoveries. Written primarily for the non-specialist, the contributions cover a wide range of subjects from the neolithic period to Greco-Roman times and are well illustrated, which is especially important as many of the finds will not be published for some time to come. The outstanding features of this number of the Revue du Caire are, of course, the most spectacular finds of the past season: the Kamose stela, the burial chamber of the unfinished Saqqara Pyramid, and the Cheops boat grave, but the excavations at Helwan, at Saqqara North, at Abydos, Mitrahine, and in the Delta are treated equally well, and thus the report forms a comprehensive survey of last year's activities in the field of ancient Egyptian archaeology. The price of the issue is PT 80; available through all bookstores or directly from the Revue at 3, Sharia Dr Abdel Hamid Said, Cairo.

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THE CAIRO MUSEUM

Since February 1, a sign in the Museum's office where the Journal d'Entrée is kept announces in Arabic, English, and French that the registers and position cards can be used and consulted by museum keepers only. Thus the Cairo Museum has adopted the policy of some other institutions, notably the British Museum, where no outsider may ever consult the original entries. Members who wish to obtain information which entails use of the Journal d'Entrée or Yardbook (Temporary Register) of the Museum are asked to write directly to the Cairo Museum and not to the Center's office in Cairo.

There are reports that the construction of a new museum on the ground west of the present Cairo Museum has not been approved since the new City Hall of Cairo will be built on this choice site facing the splendid Corniche and the Nile. Instead it is said to have been planned to erect a new museum to the north of the present Museum where the buildings of the Department of Antiquities are located and to house the latter on a new site further north at the corner of the Sharia el Gala.

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NOTICE

The office of the Center in Cairo will be closed on May 31. After that date all mail addressed to the Director should be sent to him c/o USEF/E, Tagher Building, Sharia el Shams, Garden City, Cairo.

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Ashton Sanborn
Acting Executive Secretary
147 Brattle Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts